

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 26, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 20, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 22

Introduced by Assembly Members John A. Pérez and Weber
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August 5, 2013

House Resolution No. 22—Relative to the March on Washington 50th anniversary.

- 1 WHEREAS, The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
- 2 on August 28, 1963, was one of the largest rallies for human rights
- 3 in United States history and called for civil and economic rights
- 4 for African Americans; and
- 5 WHEREAS, The March on Washington included musical
- 6 performances by Marian Anderson, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, and
- 7 Mahalia Jackson, and a series of speeches by various civil rights
- 8 leaders, including Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religious leaders,

1 as well as now Congressman John Lewis and the only female
2 speaker, Josephine Baker; and

3 WHEREAS, At the March on Washington, Reverend Dr. Martin
4 Luther King, Jr., standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial,
5 delivered one of the most famous speeches in American history,
6 his “I Have a Dream” speech, advocating racial harmony and social
7 justice; and

8 WHEREAS, The March on Washington was organized by a
9 group of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations, under the
10 theme “jobs and freedom,” with an estimated 200,000 to 300,000
11 people participating; and

12 WHEREAS, The 1963 March on Washington played an
13 important part in the rapidly expanding civil rights movement, and
14 it also marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of the
15 Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln; and

16 WHEREAS, The March on Washington was planned and
17 initiated by A. Philip Randolph, the President of the Brotherhood
18 of Sleeping Car Porters -- the first predominantly black labor union.
19 He was also President of the Negro American Labor Council and
20 Vice President of the AFL-CIO; and

21 WHEREAS, When schools in the South resisted school
22 integration following *Brown v. Board of Education*, Randolph
23 organized a Prayer Pilgrimage with Martin Luther King, Jr., and
24 in 1958 and 1959, Randolph organized youth marches for
25 integrated schools in Washington, D.C.; and

26 WHEREAS, Randolph inspired the “Freedom Budget,”
27 sometimes called the “Randolph Freedom Budget,” which aimed
28 to deal with the economic problems facing the African American
29 community, particularly workers and the unemployed; and

30 WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin was the chief organizer of the March
31 on Washington and instrumental in organizing its logistics. He
32 drafted off-duty police officers to be marshals and bus captains to
33 direct traffic, and scheduled the podium speakers; and

34 WHEREAS, Rustin was an American leader in social
35 movements for civil rights, nonviolence, and gay rights and became
36 a leading strategist in the civil rights movement from 1955 to 1968,
37 helping to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
38 to strengthen Martin Luther King, Jr.’s leadership and promote
39 the philosophy and practice of nonviolent resistance; and

1 WHEREAS, Commemorating the 1963 March on Washington
2 affirms our nation's and our state's commitment to achieving the
3 social and economic justice sought by the marchers and their vision
4 of social equality, opportunity, and racial harmony embodied in
5 the Martin Luther King, Jr.'s captivating "I Have A Dream" speech;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin proclaimed the demands of the
8 March on Washington to be "effective civil rights legislation," an
9 end to segregation "in every school district in the year 1963," "the
10 enforcement of the Fourteenth Amendment" to the United States
11 Constitution, a ban on "discrimination in all housing supported by
12 federal funds," "an increase in the national minimum wage so that
13 men may live in dignity," and that "all of the rights that are given
14 to any citizen be given to black men and men of every minority
15 group" including a strong Fair Employment Practices Commission;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The March on Washington is widely credited with
18 helping to pave the way for passage of the Civil Rights Act of
19 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

20 WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 laid the foundation
21 of civil rights legislation in the United States when it outlawed
22 major forms of discrimination against racial, ethnic, national, and
23 religious minorities, and women; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 became
25 the landmark federal legislation in the United States to prohibit
26 discrimination in voting. This act, echoing the language of the
27 Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, prohibits
28 states and local governments from imposing any "voting
29 qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or
30 procedure ... to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the
31 United States to vote on account of race or color"; and

32 WHEREAS, In recent years, states have enacted voting laws
33 that could potentially disenfranchise voters; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved*, By the Assembly of the State of California, That the
35 Assembly commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March
36 on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and how it served as a
37 catalyst for the passage of landmark legislative reforms, such as
38 the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964;
39 and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the sacrifices made by the leaders and
2 participants of the March on Washington 50 years ago are
3 recognized and honored for their role in the advancement of civil
4 rights and social justice in the United States; and be it further
5 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
6 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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